Calendar No. 940

82D CONGRESS, 1st Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 963

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO PROCLAIM JANUARY 13 OF EACH YEAR AS STEPHEN FOSTER MEMORIAL DAY

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Mr. MCCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 308]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 308) authorizing the President to proclaim January 13 of each year as Stephen Foster Memorial Day, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to authorize the President of the United States to issue a proclamation annually designating January 13 as Stephen Foster Memorial Day.

STATEMENT

January 13, 1952, marks the eighty-eighth anniversary of the death of one of America's greatest composers, Stephen Collins Foster. The songs of this man have become an integral part of Americana. "Oh, Susanna", for instance, was a favorite melody in 1849 and is often associated with the gold rush of that year. His melodies entitled "Old Folks at Home," "My Old Kentucky Home," and "Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair" were equally popular at the times when they were written. All of these songs still enjoy great popularity, not only among the American people but in other lands as well.

This composer has greatly enriched the life of the American people. The proclamation by the President of January 13 as Stephen Foster Memorial Day would represent a fitting tribute to this great American composer and a long overdue recognition of his extraordinary contribution to American life.

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